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THE TABLET.—No. LIV.

"In all the labors of self-preservation, man is intent on avoiding what is hurtful to him: but in the enjoyment of what is pleasant his thoughts are relaxed and he is void of care: he can swallow a thousand delights, one after another, without asking questions; but the least evil makes him inquisitive whence it came, in order to shun it."

THIS propensity in our nature, to be more strongly affected with the evil than with the good that happens to us, is a source of great error in our opinions and reasonings. From this cause, the prevailing notions of religion have not generally been calculated to make men amiable and happy; and the most lively impressions respecting government have been strongly marked with fear and discontent.

The dark ages of ignorance and superstition, that have covered so great a portion of the human race, have confined the influence of reason and philosophy within narrow bounds. Men have necessarily acted under the force of some prevailing delusion; and so low and debased has been the state of society, in most periods of the world, that the feelings of people have unavoidably received a tinge, unfavorable both to the character and happiness of rational beings.

As society advances from the shackles of despotism, people assume a greater elevation of spirit. Men act less under the impulse of their gloomy, unsocial passions. Religion presents few horrors to a mind over which reason has been accustomed to assume a sway. Government likewise is viewed in a more agreeable light as men progress in civilization.

Every man has an image of the Deity existing within himself; and though the scripture represents that God made man in his own image; yet universal experience likewise proves the reverse to be true, and we accordingly find that, *Man makes God after his own image.*

A savage is familiarized only to natural good and evil. The enjoyment of the former is so uniform and tranquil that it makes no strong impressions. He participates in the blessings of light and air; he is refreshed with showers, and he gathers the fruits of the earth without sensations of gratitude, or a spirit of adoration to any invisible cause. Such habitual gratifications excite no favorable sentiments respecting the Deity, because in fact they excite no reflections at all. Man seems to claim all these things as a natural right. When we view the opposite side of the picture and find a savage afflicted with evil, his temper is roused and his mind becomes inquisitive. Some invisible being is supposed to direct in the management of such dark scenes. Hence the God of a savage is generally possessed of stern, implacable attributes.

LETTERS,

Written in Holland, in the Year M,DCC,LXXX,

By His Excellency

THE VICE-PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES.

LETTER II.

AMSTERDAM, OCT. 5, 1780.

SIR,

YOUR first proposition is, "to prove, by striking facts, that an implacable hatred and aversion reigns throughout America."

In answer to this, I beg leave to say, that the Americans are animated by higher principles, and better and stronger motives, than hatred and aversion. They universally aspire after a free trade with all the commercial world, instead of that mean monopoly, in which they were shackled by Great Britain, to the disgrace and mortification of America, and to the injury of all the rest of Europe; to whom it seems as if God and nature intended that so great a magazine of productions, the raw materials of manufactures, so great a source of commerce, and so rich a nursery of seamen, as America is, should be open. They despise, Sir, they disdain the idea of being again monopolized by any one nation whatsoever: And this contempt is at least as powerful a motive of action as any hatred whatsoever.

Moreover, Sir, they consider themselves contending for the purest principles of liberty, civil and religious; for those forms of government under the faith of which their country was planted; and for those great improvements of them which have been made by their constitutions. They consider themselves not only as contending for these great blessings, but against the greatest evils that any country ever suffered; for they know, if they were to be deceived by England, to break their union among themselves, and their faith with their allies, they would ever after be in the

power of England, who would bring them into the most abject submission to the government of a Parliament, the most corrupted in the world, in which they would have no voice nor influence, at three thousand miles distance from them.

But if hatred must come into consideration, I know not how to prove their hatred better than by shewing the provocations they have had to hatred.

If tearing up from the foundation those forms of government under which they were born and educated, and thrived and prospered, to the infinite emolument of England—if imposing taxes upon them, or endeavouring to do it, for twenty years, without their consent—if commencing hostilities upon them—burning their towns—butchering their people—deliberately starving prisoners—ravishing their women—exciting hosts of Indians to butcher and scalp them—and purchasing Germans to destroy them, and hiring negro servants to murder their masters;—If all these, and many other things as bad, are not provocations enough to hatred, I would request Mr. CALKOE to tell me what is or can be. All these horrors the English have practised in every part of America, from Boston to Savanna.

2. Your second proposition is "to shew that this is general—at least so general, that the Tories are in so small a number, and of such little force, that they are counted as nothing."

If Mr. CALKOE would believe me, I could testify as a witness; I could describe all the sources, all the grounds, springs, principles, and motives to Toryism through the continent. This would lead me into great lengths; and the result of all would be, my sincere opinion that the Tories throughout the whole continent do not amount to a twentieth part of the people. I will not, however obtrude my testimony, nor my opinion: I will appeal to witnesses who cannot be suspected, General BURGoyNE and General HOWE. Burgoyne has published a narrative of his Proceedings, in which he speaks of the Tories. I left the pamphlet at Paris, but it may easily be had from London.

General Howe has also published a narrative relative to his conduct in America. Page 49, General Howe says, "The only attempt by bodies of men to form themselves in arms, and to assist in suppressing the rebellion, happened in North-Carolina, in the spring of 1776, when it was absolutely impossible for me to give assistance to the insurrection. The plan was concerted between a settlement of Highland emigrants, and a body of Americans in that Province, distinguished by the name of Loyalists. (He should have said Regulators.) They engaged to obey the orders of Governor MARTIN, who proposed they should operate in favor of the troops from Europe, under Earl CORNWALLIS. The Loyalists promised 5000, the Highlanders 700 men. The former insisted upon their assembling immediately; the latter urged the expediency of waiting the arrival of the British troops, but yielded to the importunity of the loyalists, and repaired in arms to the place of rendezvous, stronger than the stipulated complement. The loyalists, instead of 5000, did not assemble a twentieth part of that number; and two companies of these deserted, upon the near approach of the rebels. The Highlanders stood their ground, and fought bravely, but being overpowered, were defeated with considerable loss, and forced to disperse."

"My letter of the twentieth of December, 1776, was written before the affair of Trenton, and I could have no reason to suspect the fidelity of those who came in to us from Monmouth; but I was soon undeceived. Many, very many, of these loyalists were a short time afterwards taken in arms against us, and others were killed with my protections in their pockets. In the pockets of the killed and prisoners, were also found certificates of those very men having subscribed a declaration of allegiance, in consequence of the proclamation of the King's Commissioners for a general indemnity. These are notorious facts."

"Various offers of raising men were made to me, nor did I decline any of those offers that brought with them the least prospect of success: but I must add, that very few of them were fulfilled in the extent proposed."

"Mr. OLIVER DELANCEY, who was reputed to be the most likely man in New-York to induce the loyalists of that province to join the King's troops, was appointed a Brigadier-General, and authorized to raise three battalions, to consist of 1500 privates, placing at the head of each the most respectable characters, recommended as such by himself and by Governor TRYON. Every possible effort was used by those gentlemen, not only in the districts possessed by the King's troops, but by employing persons to go through the country, and invite the well-affected to come in. Several of the officers (as I have since been informed) anxi-

ous to complete their corps, sought for recruits even among the prisoners, who were then very numerous, and ventured to hold out to them the temptations of pay, liberty, and pardon. Notwithstanding all these efforts and encouragements, Brigadier General Delancey, at the opening of the campaign in 1777, instead of 1500, had raised only 597."

"Mr. COURTLAND SKINNER, who was acknowledged to possess considerable influence in the Jerseys, where he had served the office of Attorney-General with great integrity and reputation, was also appointed a Brigadier-General, and authorized to raise five battalions, to consist of 2500 privates, under the command of gentlemen of the country, nominated by himself. The same efforts were made as for the raising of Delancey's corps; but at the opening of the campaign of 1777, Brigadier-General Skinner's numbers amounted only to 517, towards his expected battalions of 2500."

"In November 1777, Brigadier-General Delancey's corps increased to 693, and Brigadier-General Skinner's, to 859. In May 1778, their progress was so slow, that the first had only advanced to 707, the latter to 1101."

"Several other corps were offered to be raised, and were accepted, in the winter of 1776, making in the whole thirteen, to consist of 6,500 men, including the Brigades of Delancey and Skinner. But in May, 1778, the whole number in all these thirteen corps, amounted to only 3,609, little more than half the proposed complement, and of these only a small proportion were Americans."

"Upon our taking possession of Philadelphia, the same, and indeed greater encouragements, were held out to the people of Pennsylvania. Mr. WILLIAM ALLEN, a gentleman who was supposed to have great family influence in that province; Mr. CHALMERS, much respected in the three lower counties on Delaware, and in Maryland; and Mr. CLIFTON, the chief of the Roman Catholic persuasion, of whom there were said to be many in Philadelphia, as well as in the rebel army, serving against their inclinations; these gentlemen were appointed commandants of corps, to receive and form for service all the well-affected that could be obtained. And what was the success of these efforts? In May, 1778, when I left America, Col. Allen had raised only 152 rank and file; Col. Chalmers 336; and Col. Clifton 180; which, together with three troops of light dragoons, consisting of 132 troopers, 174 real volunteers from Jersey, under Colonel VANDYKE, amounting in the whole to 974 men, constituted all the force that could be collected in Pennsylvania, after the most indefatigable exertions during eight months."

"To make the conclusion as easy as possible, I shall state a very strong fact, to shew how far the inhabitants were anxious to promote the king's service, even without carrying arms."

"As soon as we were in possession of Philadelphia, my intention was to fortify it in such a manner, as that it might be tenable by a small number of men, whilst the main army should keep the field and act against Gen. WASHINGTON. To effectuate this purpose, I sent orders from Germantown to the chief engineer, to construct redoubts, and to form the necessary lines of communication. That the work might be expedited, and the labor of the soldiers spared, I at the same time directed him to employ the inhabitants, and pay them eight pence a day, besides a ration of salt provisions each, without which, I was convinced, they could not have been persuaded to have worked at all. Mr. GALLOWAY, whom I had previously talked with upon the subject, had assured me there would be no difficulty in finding 500 men for this business; and, I presume, he exerted himself to fulfil the expectations he had given me. But with all the assiduity of that gentleman, and all the means made use of by the chief engineer, the whole number that could be prevailed on to handle the pickaxe and spade, for the construction of the redoubts and abbatiss, amounted, each day, upon an average, to no more than between seventy and eighty men."

I have quoted to you General HOWE's words; and one would think this was sufficient to shew how much or how little zeal there is for the British cause in North America. When we consider, that in the period here mentioned, the English army had been in possession of Boston, Newport, New-York and Philadelphia, and that they had marched through the Jerseys, part of Maryland, and Pennsylvania; and with all their arts, bribes, threats and flatteries, which Gen. HOWE calls their efforts and exertions, they were able to obtain so few recruits, and very few of these Americans; I think that any impartial man must be convinced that the aversion and antipathy to the British cause is very general, so general, that the Tories are to be accounted but a very little thing."